

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please insert the following Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method of encoding speech in a communications system includes the steps of receiving a speech signal including voice signals and background signals, and detecting voice activity and providing an indicator when no voice activity is detected. The speech signal is encoded to generate a plurality of parameters representing the signal. When the indicator is not present, a first parametric representation of the speech signal is output, including the plurality of parameters. When the indicator is present, at least one of the plurality of parameters is modified and a second parametric representation of the speech signal, including the modified parameter is output.